

Chicago: the first Brightfields success story.

The City of Chicago recently became the first community to undertake a Brightfields project (August 1999). The Mayor's Office worked jointly with the DOE and the electric utility Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) to develop an extensive Brightfields plan. The plan was designed to advance the City's economic development, climate change, air quality, and electric reliability goals through the incorporation of solar technology. This Chicago Brightfields project is the result of many businesses, community organizations, and government agencies working together towards the revitalization of an underutilized urban site. As a result:

- Spire Solar Chicago (a manufacturer of solar equipment) is constructing a new solar manufacturing facility that will produce 3 megawatts of solar panels per year, thus creating 100 new jobs and spurring local economic development.
- The plant will be constructed and located on a former brownfield site on Chicago's West Side, thereby revitalizing a brownfield site.
- The City of Chicago and ComEd are committed to purchasing \$8 million of these solar panels. The panels will be placed on brownfield sites, as well as other locations, in order to provide clean energy to schools, office buildings, transportation routes, and municipal and commercial properties in Chicago. Such activity will enhance electric system reliability, provide public health benefits, and create new markets for solar energy.

How do I find out more about Brightfields?

Please contact the U.S. Department of
Energy's Brightfields Coordinator at:

Phone: (202) 586-6713

Fax: (202) 586-8177

Email: brightfields@ee.doe.gov

Visit the Brightfields website at
<http://www.eren.doe.gov/brightfields>

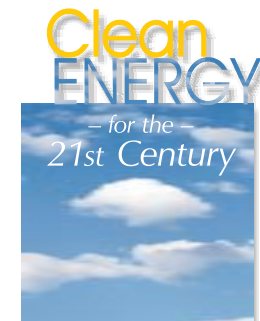


Office of Energy Efficiency
and Renewable Energy



Brightfields

**Redeveloping Brownfields
with Solar Energy**



U.S. Department of Energy
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and Renewable Energy

What are Brightfields?

Brightfields encourage economic development on brownfield¹ sites through solar energy applications. The Department of Energy (DOE) is working with communities across the country to help them apply this innovative approach to community revitalization. The Brightfields concept encompasses a broad array of projects that incorporate solar energy and brownfields, such as:

- A solar energy manufacturing plant located on the brownfield site;
- building-integrated solar energy systems located on the brownfield site; and,
- solar electric systems placed directly on top of the brownfield site.

Brightfields...

- foster economic activity;
- improve local air quality and electric system reliability; and,
- create solar energy markets.

Brightfields turn environmental losses into economic gains.

Brightfields activities operate on lands that have been developed in the past but are currently underutilized and seen as burdens on local economic resources. Brightfields can help communities to maximize the value of their brownfields sites by converting their economic burdens into revenue generating assets. In some circumstances, Brightfields can actually cut the cost of brownfield remediation.

¹ A brownfield is an abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial site where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination; it also has an active potential for redevelopment or reuse.

A window of opportunity for Brightfields.

Unprecedented changes in the way Americans purchase their electricity are currently underway. As new electric utility restructuring, environmental regulations, and solar technology advances are all taking place, the opportunity for communities to create Brightfields by redeveloping their brownfields with solar energy has never been more promising. The Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy encourages communities to take advantage of this historical moment.

How can the Department of Energy help your community create a Brightfield?

The DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), a prime researcher and developer of advanced clean energy

technologies for the U.S. taxpayer, has world class experts available to support Brightfields activities. Training and technical assistance in land use planning, financing, and other issues can be provided to local decision-makers through both these experts and EERE's six regional offices.

How to make Brightfields projects work in your community.

Successful Brightfields projects require buy-in from a variety of stakeholders and depend upon collaboration among private businesses, energy companies, community organizations, and government agencies. Brightfields projects can take advantage of local economic incentives for solar energy, brownfields re-development, and other federal programs such as "empowerment zones / enterprise communities" in order to help develop commercially viable projects.



New Home of Spire Solar Chicago

Artist's rendering of the Midwest Center for Green Technology. ©2000 Farr Associates Architecture and Urban Design, Chicago.